



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first EFCNI newsletter in 2012 - we hope the new year has started well for you!

With this issue we would like to share with you interesting information on the intensification of our European and international networks. Only by cultivating our relationships we are able to collect more voices in order to successfully strengthen our position for changing and improving healthy birth.

We also want to keep you informed on the status of our activities in Brussels *Caring for Tomorrow*, *EFCNI White Paper*, *Call to Action for Newborn Health* which serve as significant tools for changes in Europe.

This mailing also looks back to the highlights on World Prematurity Day in November 2011 and we would like to encourage you once more to vote on the website of “*ene, mene, mini*” as every single vote counts and strength in numbers will make it much easier for us to reach our goals!

We very much look forward to another exciting year with you and our continued joint work.

Our very best regards,

Silke Mader
Chairwoman of the Executive Board
EFCNI European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants

If you wish to go directly to the section you are interested in, please click below:

[News](#) · [EFCNI Personnel](#) · [White Paper / Benchmarking Report](#)

[World Prematurity Day 2011](#) · [Developmental Care](#) · [Mark your Calendar](#) · [Awareness Days](#)

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD

We are happy to announce that EFCNI has become an official member of the Alliance for Childhood. The members of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group share a deep concern about the quality of childhood in the member states of the European Union. For this reason, they have come together and have decided to start to work together to improve the 'Quality of Childhood' in the member states of the European Union. The members believe that a poor quality of childhood is harmful for children. When society as a whole improves this quality, it will be beneficial for the children and adolescents in question and for the societies in which they grow up.



Click here to read more: [Alliance For Childhood Protection](#)



FOUNDATION FOR PREMATURE INFANTS, INC.

The mission of Foundation for Premature Infants is to advocate for the right of all preterm infants to be cared for in a developmentally supportive manner. They want to ensure that the **premature infant Bill of Rights** is the standard of care for all babies born prematurely, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, on all shifts, in every Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the world.

Click here to read more: [The Foundation for Premature Infants](#)

EPPOSI

EFCNI is honoured to be now member of epposi, European platform for patients' organisations, science and industry.



Founded in 1994, epposi is an independent, not-for-profit, partnership-based and multi-stakeholder think tank based in Brussels, Belgium. Epposi's goal is to work at the "cutting edge" of European health policy-making, providing members and the wider public with high quality independent research, capacity-building, knowledge exchange and dissemination with the aim of bridging the gap between innovation and improved public health outcomes.

Click here to read more: [Epposi](#)

EFCNI, Silke Mader presented at THE GRAVENS CONFERENCE in Florida

The 25th anniversary of The Gravens Conference provided the opportunity for professionals and patients to explore the current state of neonatal care and to envision a future that best supports the high-risk infant, its family and the team of professionals assisting in the baby's care. The key conference tracks were developmental care, healthcare architecture and design as well as family support.

Click here to read more: [Gravens Conference 2012](#)

It is a pleasure and honor for us to introduce three new members of our **SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD** to you today:



Dr. Jos Latour
The Netherlands

Dr. Jos Latour is a nurse scientist at the Erasmus University Medical Centre – Sophia Children's Hospital in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He has been a paediatric and neonatal intensive care nurse since 1986. In February 2011, Jos received his PhD at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, medical faculty of the Erasmus University Medical Centre.

[Please click here to learn more about Jos Latour](#)



Dr. Axel Von der Wense
Germany

Dr. Axel von der Wense received his medical academic education at the Universities of Wuerzburg, Berlin and Cape Town, South Africa. He then specialized in Paediatrics and Neonatology at the University of Wuerzburg, Free University of Berlin and the Childrens Department of Klinikum Kassel. In 2000 he was appointed Head of the Department of Neonatology and Paediatric Intensive Care at the Altona Childrens Hospital in Hamburg, Germany.

[Please click here to learn more about Axel Von der Wense](#)



Prof. Dr. Mario Rüdiger
Germany

Prof. Mario Rüdiger is head of the Department for Neonatology and Pediatric Intensive Care Medicine at the Children's Clinic of the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus in Dresden, Germany and father of two young daughters. He was trained as a Pediatrician and Neonatologist at the University Hospital Charité, Berlin. During that time he also started his scientific career mainly on the field of lung injury in preterm newborns.

[Please click here to learn more about Mario Rüdiger](#)

The EFCNI team is happy to introduce a new member of the **EFCNI PARENTS ADVISORY BOARD** to you:



Dr. Tomasz Makaruk

Poland

Dr. Tomasz Makaruk is the founder and Chairman of the Polish Premature Baby Foundation (Fundacja Wcześnieiak), which has existed since 2004, shortly after Tomasz became a father to a preemie born in week 29 at 1600 g. Tomasz holds a PhD in Economics from the Warsaw School of Economics and also completed a course in Managing Professional Service Firms at Harvard Business School Executive Education. During his work with the Premature Baby Foundation, Tomasz was also the co-creator of a highly successful fundraising campaign for the organisation in 2010.

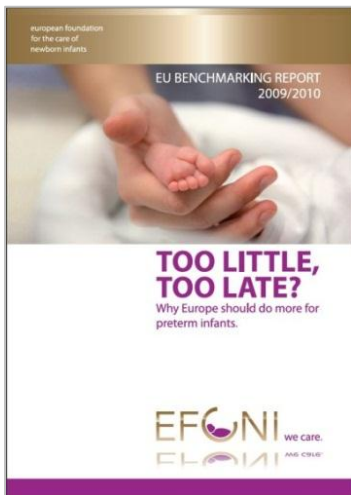
[Please click here to learn more about Tomasz Makaruk](#)

EFCNI BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



We are very happy to announce that Nicole Thiele, Director of Public Affairs, has been elected Member of the Executive Board. Please join us in congratulating Nicole on her promotion.

In the Board of Directors Nicole will replace Thomas Föringer, who will continue his appreciated role in the Board of Trustees further on.



EUROPEAN BENCHMARKING REPORT

In November 2011 the EU Benchmarking Report on the impact of prematurity was complemented with the inclusion of Ireland into the comparison. The report points out both the positive and negative aspects about Irish prematurity care and the needs of establishing a national neonatal health programme governing all aspects of neonatal health in Ireland.

For general information on the report please click here for the EFCNI website: [European Policy Benchmarking Report](#)

To download the complete report including Ireland please click here: [EFCNI Benchmarking Report \(pdf file\)](#)



WHITE PAPER

As you may remember from our last newsletter, in November 2011 EFCNI launched the White Paper on Maternal and Newborn Health and Aftercare Services in the European Parliament. We are very proud and honoured that the Paper is supported by more than 20 different organisations which adds much strengths to the message we sent out.

For a free download version of the White Paper and more information please click here: [EFCNI White Paper](#)

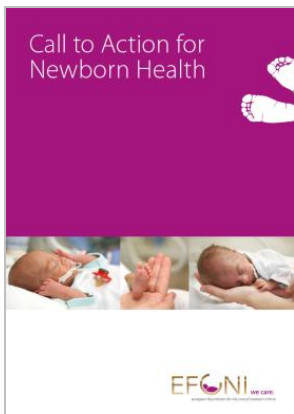
We would be grateful if you considered sharing information about the White Paper through you networks. Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@efcni.org. so that we can provide you with information material.

EVENT IMPRESSIONS - EFCNI CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

Approximately 100 attendees, ranging from parents representatives, national stakeholders, politicians, academics, doctors to high level EU and National policymakers attended the EFCNI conference 'Caring for Tomorrow: Launch of the Call to Action for Newborn Health and EFCNI White Paper on Maternal and Newborn Health and Aftercare Service' in the European Parliament on 22 and 23 November 2011. It was a very interactive, exciting and motivating event.

For an impression on the launch event please click here: [EFCNI Video "Caring For Tomorrow"](#)





CALL TO ACTION FOR NEWBORN HEALTH

2012 will focus on the 10 demands for a healthier start in life summarized in the Call to Action for Newborn Health.

For a free download version and more information on the Call to Action for Newborn Health click here: [Call to Action](#)

We would be grateful if you considered sharing information about the White Paper through you networks. Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@efcni.org. so that we can provide you with more information material.

ENE, MENE, MINI: GIVE PRETERM INFANTS YOUR VOICE!

We are proud and honoured that the demands for better treatment and care of preterm infants already received about 3,000 online votes via our first European-wide online campaign "ene, mene, mini". Thank you for your strong support!

Every vote counts and adds strength and weight to ensure a better start in life for all of Europe's children. Give preterm infants your voice and help us spreading the word:

Visit the website and vote in your language at <http://www.ene-mene-mini.eu>

Join "ene mene mini" on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/enemenemini>





FIRST EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN “ENE, MENE, MINI. ONE BABY IN TEN IS BORN PREMATURE. WORLDWIDE.”

Parents' organisations and healthcare experts throughout Europe celebrated November 17 as first World Prematurity Day with a multitude of events and activities. To give this first ever World Prematurity Day special attention and to demonstrate the unity of those concerned, clothes lines with baby socks all over Europe and even beyond demonstrated the impact prematurity has on those concerned and on our societies.

Give preterm babies your voice! For a strong start in life“ was the motto of a sensitive and emotional event at the world's biggest medical trade fair MEDICA in Düsseldorf, Germany on 17 November. Two choirs sang the most popular bedtime songs and awakened positive associations of a loving childhood in passers-by, making the campaign for World Prematurity Day 2011 a "resounding" success. The medical and safety technology company Dräger initiated this action to musically draw attention to the European-wide online voting for ten demands on improvements of maternal and newborn care at the campaign website "ene, mene, mini". [Video impressions of the event](#)

WORLD PREMATURETY DAY ON FACEBOOK

The common worldwide social media campaign on Facebook in 2011 turned out to be of overwhelming success. Please follow us on facebook: [World Prematurity Day](#).

Parents and healthcare representatives, the Global Alliance and EFCNI are already thinking about events and activities for the next World Prematurity Day in November 2012.

We hope to be able to realize another global activity in 2012 to show the world the importance of the issue and demonstrate our unity for a healthier start in life. Of course, we will keep you posted on the planning progress.



To read more on the numerous events and activities around this year's World Prematurity Day please click here: [enemenemini: World Prematurity Day](#)



NIDCAP CENTRES IN SPAIN

NIDCAP is thriving in Spain! Drs. Maria Maestro and Josep Perapch and their teams have successfully been certified as NIDCAP Trainers and established two new NIDCAP Training Centers in Barcelona and Madrid. These accomplishments were only possible due to the excellent work of newly certified NIDCAP Master Trainer, Dr. Graciela Basso, Director of the Centro Latinoamericano NIDCAP at Fernandez Hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

We are sure that these NIDCAP efforts on behalf of all newborns and their families in Spain will make an important contribution to developing and supporting the highest quality of individualized and family centered care to newborns all over Europe!

[For more information on NIDCAP Federation International please click here](#)

[To read the latest issue of the official NIDCAP newsletter please click here](#)



SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT – THE BENJAMIN KANGAROO SWEATER

The positive effects of kangaroo care are well-known. However, in practice, parents often feel uncomfortable, sitting partially undressed in the intensive care unit. They feel cold, can't see the baby or lie in an uncomfortable position. In addition to this, Breathing tubes, infusion lines and wires are in the way. Many mothers feel uncomfortable sitting partially undressed in the intensive care unit.

Our attention was drawn to the Benjamin Kangaroo Sweater which makes the skin-to-skin contact for parents and baby more comfortable.

[Click here to learn more about the Benjamin Kangaroo Sweater and meet with us Anne-Marie Hofstede, who invented this great device.](#)



Neonatal Neurology:

one day on intraventricular haemorrhage meeting

March 23, 2012 – Genoa, Italy

5th International EURAIBI Meeting

April 19-21, 2012 – Sienna, Italy

7th International Breastfeeding and Lactation Symposium

April 20-21, 2012 – Vienna, Austria

**30th Annual Meeting of the European Society for
Paediatric Infectious Diseases ESPID 2012**

May 8-11, 2012 – Thessaloniki, Greece

EBCOG 2012

May 8-12, 2012 – Tallinn, Estonia

2nd Global Conference for Consensus in Paediatrics & Child Health

May 17-20, 2012 - Moscow, Russia

2nd International Congress on Cardiac Problems in Pregnancy

May 17-20, 2012 – Berlin, Germany

10. Österreichische “Frühchentagung”

May 25, 2012 – Salzburg, Austria

23rd European Congress of Perinatal Medicine

June 13-16, 2012 – Paris, France

11th European Conference on Pediatric and Neonatal Ventilation

June 6-9, 2012 – Montreux, Switzerland

**38th Annual Congress Gesellschaft für Neonatologie
and Pädiatrische Intensivmedizin (GNPI)**

September 12-16, 2012 – Hamburg, Germany

4th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies

October 6-9, 2012 – Istanbul, Turkey

**Fifty-sixth Session of the UN Commission
on the Status of Women**

Feb 27 – March 9, 2012 – New York, USA

Learning for Well-Being

February 27, 2012 – Brussels, Belgium

1st International Conference on Nutrition & Growth

March 1-3, 2012 – Paris, France

**12th Ljubljana International Paediatric and
Neonatal Intensive Care (LIPNIC) Symposium**

March 8, 2012 – Ljubljana, Slovenia

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4th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies

October 6-9, 2012 – Istanbul, Turkey

XX FIBO World Congress

October 7-12, 2012 – Rome, Italy

25th ESICM Annual Congress

October 13-17, 2012 – Lisbon, Portugal

4th Congenital Cytomegalovirus Conference

Oct 29-Nov 2, 2012 – San Francisco, USA

Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 – Beijing, China

2nd International Congress on Neurology and Epidemiology (ICNE)

November 8-10, 2012 – Nice, France

3rd International Congress of UENPS Congress

November 14-17, 2012 – Porto, Portugal

Hot Topics in Neonatology Conference

December 3-4, 2012 – USA

5th EfCCNa Congress

May 23-25, 2013 - Belgrade, Serbia

3rd Global Conference Women Deliver

May 28-30, 2013 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

39th Annual Congress Gesellschaft für Neonatologie und Pädiatrische Intensivmedizin (GNPI)

June 6-8, 2013 – Freiburg, Germany

World Federation of Societies of Critical Care Medicine Congress

Aug 28-Sept 1, 2013 - Durban, South Africa

8th International Neonatal Nursing Conference 2013

September 5-8, 2013 – Belfast, Ireland

February 29

Rare Diseases Day

Rare Disease Day is an annual, awareness-raising event co-ordinated by EURORDIS at the international level and the National Alliances of Patient Organisations at the national level

March 8

International Women's Day

Established in 1911 and celebrated annually on 8 March, International Women's Day this year celebrates a centenary of achievements in women's health, education and rights. The focus in 2011 is "Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathways for decent work for women".

April 7

World Health Day

In 1948, the First World Health Assembly called for the creation of a World Health Day to mark the founding of WHO. Since 1950, World Health Day has been celebrated every year on 7 April with a different theme.

April 18

European Patient Rights Week

May 15-20

Respected Childbirth Week

June 1

International Children's Day

The World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland proclaimed June 1 to be International Children's Day in 1925. It is usually marked with speeches on children's rights and wellbeing, children TV programs, parties, various actions involving or dedicated to children, families going out, etc.

September 26

World Contraception Day

World Contraception Day (WCD) is a worldwide campaign with a vision for **a world where every pregnancy is wanted**. Its mission is to improve awareness of contraception to enable young people to make informed decisions on sexual and reproductive health.

December 10

Human Rights Day

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted on 10 December 1948. The date has since served to mark Human Rights Day worldwide. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the main UN rights official, and her Office play a major role in coordinating efforts for the yearly observance of Human Rights Day

Our Thanks

We are extremely grateful to the following for their generous support of our work and the prematurity issue:



Dräger



*This online newsletter is issued by EFCNI- European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants
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